

LESSON 15: COLOSSIANS 4:1-18

Be Alert and Watchful

1. Why should you be alert and watchful (v. 2)? What should you be alert for? (See Luke 12:35-48 and 1 Peter 5:8-9.)
2. Based on what you have read in this letter, what do you have to be thankful for in your prayers (v. 2)? Notice Paul's continuation of the thankfulness theme.
3. Instead of praying for release from prison, what prayer requests does Paul make (vv. 3-4)? Why is the theme of this prayer so important?
4. How are you to conduct yourself toward pagans (vv. 5-6)? What does it mean to "make the most of the time" (v. 5)? How would "gracious speech" impact the world?
5. List the names of Paul's associates (vv. 7-17). How diverse are they? What message does the world see and receive in the unity of such diverse believers?
6. What do you find about the relationship of the churches in Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis (vv. 13-16)?
7. Epaphras, who took the gospel to the Colossians (1:7-8), is commended for his concern for them. What impresses you about his praying for them? How is this a model for you? Are there people whom you know who need this kind of attention?